

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VN, UR
SUBJ: VIETNAM

REF: MOSCOW 467

1. WE ARE GLAD THAT EMB MOSCOW FOLLOWED UP DELIVERY OF US
NOTE ON VIETNAM WITH APPROACH BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR STRESSING
GRAVITY OF CURRENT SITUATION AND NEED FOR HANOI TO CEASE ITS
FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE IT
IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP BEFORE SOVIETS THOUGHT EXPRESSED IN NOTE
THAT DRV ACTIONS POSE THREAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, "TO THE
PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN REMOVING VIETNAM AS A MAJOR ISSUE OF
GREAT POWER CONTENTION". WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST SOME ADDITIONAL
AMMUNITION TO EMB MOSCOW ON POINTS RAIADED BY KUZNETSOV.

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2. WE AGREE THAT THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS CENTRAL TO

THE CONFLICT BUT REJECT KUZNETSOV'S RE-INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT TO ALLEGE THAT IT CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A "THIRD FORCE" TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE AGREEMENT REFERS ONLY TO A THIRD "SEGMENT" IN THE NCNRC, WHICH IS NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, AND THE NATURE OF WHICH MUST BE SETTLED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS. THE POLITICAL SOLUTION CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS FREE ELECTIONS, AND IN THE PARIS POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS THE GVN PUSHED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION CULMINATING IN FREE ELECTIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF A BODY WHICH WOULD DETERMINE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SVN. IT IS THE DRV/"PRG" SIDE THAT IS NOW TRYING TO IGNORE THE POLITICAL SOLUTION SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT BY DEMANDING THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU AS A PRECONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND BY ALLEGING THAT THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A "THIRD FORCE" AND A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

3. IT IS OF COURSE ENTIRELY UNTRUE THAT THE FAULT FOR THE BREAKING OFF OF TALKS IN PARIS AND SAIGON IN APRIL-MAY, 1974, LIES WITH SAIGON SINCE IT IS THE DRV/"PRG" SIDE WHICH IS DEMANDING NOT ONLY THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT THIEU BUT ALSO THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, AND VASTLY INCREASED PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNIST MILITARY DELEGATIONS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY MUTUALLY AGREED, BEFORE THEY WILL EVEN NEGOTIATE. WE SHOULD URGE UPON THE SOVIETS THE IDEA THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS IS FOR HANOI TO BE PERSUADED TO DROP THESE DEMANDS, SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WE CANNOT ASK THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT SUICIDE AS A PRECONDITION FOR TALKS.

4. MOSCOW MAY ALSO FIND USEFUL PAPER SENT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS UNDER COVER OF STATE A-9137 DEMONSTRATING CLEARLY WHO IS VIOLATING THE MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

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